

# IN THE BEGINNING



**Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
Vol. 17 - No. 67**

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Vol. 17-No. 67

July, 1984

Lester A. Harding, Editor

### Editor Notes —

In trying to keep Yates Center as the Prairie Hay Capitol of the world we take a picture occasionally. The latest one is one of the Bud Hatch trucks with alot of hay on it. It has 32 bales that run from 1600 to 1800 pounds each.

We do not know just where or how far it was going, but the center of the load is not very far from the ground level. Each of these bales are 4 x 4½ x 8½ feet. Compare this type of baling and the bales with that on page 22.



The Bob Moews tractor, baler and bale that gets a lot of hay baled with a short crew when the weather is favorable.

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\$4.00 per year

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**WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Organized March, 1965**

The Woodson County Historical Society met for their regular 6:30 dinner meeting at the 107 Inn, with 47 present.

Bill Norris, Superintendent of Yates Center Schools was the guest speaker. He gave a good talk as he told about many of the problems of the schools.

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The work on the Museum was completed and a large job lay ahead for a few who took on the task of changing and placing articles in the cases and tables. The Fair Board gave the Historical Society several display cases and tables, as they were getting new ones.

Personally we have been somewhat disappointed in the people of Yates Center and Woodson County in that many of them while they may think we should have a historical museum, they have never been inside of the building.

\* \* \* \* \*

**IN MEMORIAN**

Elsie Alvis Daniel

92

April 8, 1984

The May meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held in the 107 Inn for the 6:30 dinner. Memorial Services were held for nine members who had deceased since the last Memorial Day. They were Erma T. Harder, Glenn Briles, Maxine Dumond Weir, Avis Eagle Ireland, Gilbert Starkebaum, 82, Flossie, 92; John A. "Delbert" Erker, 79; Ray F. Butler, 84; Elsie Daniel, 92.

Ron Falkenstein representing the Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant gave an illustrated talk about this plant.

There were 51 members and visitors present for the dinner.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Join and Support**

**WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Life Membership \$25.00

2

Regular \$2.00 a year

## **THE OLD SAWMILL ON THE VERDIGRIS RIVER —**

Most of this story is taken from the files of the Toronto Republican of - March 21, 1912 - E.E. Kelley, Editor.

"Tom Larue was in town Saturday and had a pow wow with the editor. Tom is an old timer. He came here in 1860. His father settled on what is the old Nate Baker farm across the river. His father bought out the man who entered the land originally, bought his relinquishment for \$300 in gold.

Tom was ten years old then. He grew stout and husky and after the Civil War he worked quite a while at the old sawmill on the river. Eight young fellows then were working there, and having their own boarding house. Tom was there, and Miller who married one of A.C. Gordy's sisters, and Donaldson, the latter two running the sawmill. And Charles Dorsey and Joe Dean who was head sawyer and Curt Ivy and Bob Niblick. Tom does not remember the eighth man.

And the boys had their own boarding-house and posted three rules of the house. No cards, no whiskey, no talking of Politics; for as Tom said, among eight men from the ends of the earth any three will sooner or later cause trouble.

And they hired their own cook. First it was Mr. Casto and then it was Vanessah Camp, and then it was "Uncle" Johnny Camp, and then it was Milton Harris.



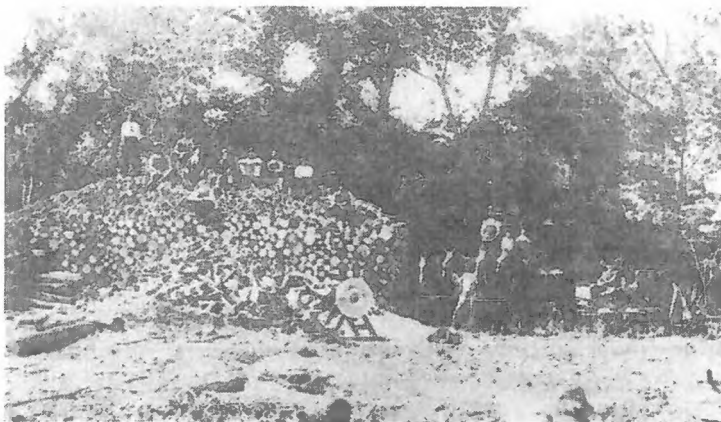
The left-hand side picture of the old sawmill on the Verdigris River south of Toronto, with the large saw dust pile. The other half of the large picture showed the rest of the shelter over the saw and machinery. The picture was long and was broken in the center, and we seemingly have lost the other half.

## **TORONTO - 1885, Killed by a Bursting Wheel.**

The accident that struck our city with deep sorrow. Mr. Michener accompanied by several parties had gone to the Verdigris River to run a sawmill for W.H. Ledgerwood, located several miles down the river from Toronto - the week before the accident and on Monday the day of the accident they were without a sawyer and Michener, was the engineer, volunteered to fill the vacancy.

Having charge of the engine and saw both at the same time evidently had more on his hands than he could conduct, and while paying attention to the saw he allowed too much steam to run and just before the fatal stroke one of the hands spoke to him saying, "shut off the steam", when he seemed bewildered, evidently from the rapidity in which the machinery was running, and stood for a moment without moving when all of a sudden he seemed to realize the danger and caught the lever which controls the throttle just as the wheel which runs the upper saw broke a piece, which struck him just above the heart on the breast, another on the leg between the knee and ankle. Having hold of the throttle lever when the blow was struck he clung to it and fell throwing full power, when it was said by those present the engine seemed to jump a foot off the ground. One of the hands then ventured up and turned off the steam. Michener raised himself up and walked for a few steps and fell on his face and when someone approached raised up and exclaimed, "Don't", and was soon dead.

The remains were removed from there to Toronto by Seth Kellogg and L.L. Byington.



**A pile of cordwood sawed at old mill site.**

## ODDS & ENDS —

The first child born in Neosho Falls was Lucy Williams, daughter of S.J. and Eva Williams, but no date given.

The first child born in Liberty township was Mae Humphrey in 1858. No parents were given. The first birth listed in Woodson County was that of Eliza Jane Tassel, in 1857, but no parents given.

The first woman teacher listed in the county was that of a Miss Emma Coulter, who taught a private school in the summer of 1858, in Neosho Falls, Kansas.

The first woman to be elected to a public office was Miss Lizzie Stephenson, who was elected as Superintendent of Public Instruction, in the November, 1882 election.

FARMER'S ADVOCATE - Hudson and Kinyon, Proprietors.  
Yates Center, Kansas - April 29, 1898 -

With two large hotels on the Mo. Pacific, the entire east side of the square to be built up with substantial stone business buildings. Many fine residences in course of erection and completion, the likelihood of railroad car works to locate here within a year, gas and oil to be struck as soon as bored, for a new court house to be built as soon as the war is over, makes Woodson County feel justly proud of her county seat.

E.W. Fisher, member of a large hay commission firm of Chicago, was here this week and bought about 30 cars of hay at this place and Rose. The price was from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per ton.

George Harding, one of the rustlin young men of Liberty was a caller at the Advocate. George recently bought 40 acres of land this spring and is rapidly making a good farm of it. (S.E. quarter of the N.E. quarter of section 32, Twp. 23, R. 15)

\* \* \* \* \*

Henry Bergman who lived at Nikkletown did not have a wagon box solid enough to hold hogs, so he would drive them to Burlington. They would start about 4 a.m., to get as far as possible before the weather got too hot. The hogs were not too hard to drive, but gave much trouble in crossing streams.

Oak Grove school Dist. #4 - 1903. Dora Frame, teacher. Pupils: Alton, Neva and Willie Arnholt; Dora, Johnnie, Henry, Charles and Eddie Bayer; Minnie, Harry and Leonard Boursfeld; Nellie, Guy and Elmer Barney; Emma, Freddie and Willie Burkhart; Emil and Clara Fuhlhage; Arthur, Bessie and Luther Hassenpflug; Eddie Ireland.



## CHARLES A. STOCKEBRAND AND FAMILY —

Charles A. Stockebrand was born in the Log Cabin on the homestead of his parents. Ernest and Louisa Stockebrand, along Owl Creek about two miles to the northeast of Yates Center. Here he grew up in the pioneer days of Woodson County.

Several years ago Charley told the writer of herding cattle and sheep over the hills and blackjack groves in what is now the town of Yates Center, and remembered seeing the first houses moved onto the townsite.

Charles A. Stockebrand and Miss Emma Kerston were married at the home of the bride's parents Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kerston, on March 7, 1894 at Vassar, Kansas. They started their married life on the southwest quarter of Sec. 33, with Turkey Creek running through it. This was eight miles north and two west from Yates Center. This became a well improved farm. One thing about we remember was the patent gate that was at the entrance to the farmstead that was built a couple hundred yards from the gate. The large gate could be opened from either side with the use of levers and pulleys. The driver of a buggy, carriage, wagon or horse back could drive up, pull the lever and the gate would open, drive through and the lever on the other side would release.

Besides farming this family of Stockebrands baled quite alot of prairie hay during the summer. Besides the large barn at the farmstead they had a large barn at Vernon that would be filled each summer to be shipped out at a convenient time.

Charles A. and Emma Stockebrand were the parents of four boys and two girls. Leslie, Fred, Arthur, and Ezra, the girls both died young. Myrtle died at the age of 10 years, and Olive at age 4.

A windmill close to the house kept water from a well available. As Mrs. Stockebrand's parents grew older a small house was built in the southeast corner of the front yard for them. They were Fred and Caroline Storbeck Kerston.

Charles A. was second in a family of eight children. He lived his entire life in Woodson County. In their later years Charles and Emma were residents of the Hillcrest Nursing Home.

Their 50th Wedding Anniversary was held at their country home with all of their children and grandchildren present on March 5, 1944. They also observed their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They had been together for 65 years when Charles died in 1959. Emma passed away the following year in 1960.



**The Charles A. Stockebrand Family. Seated - Left to right are Leslie, Emma and Charles A. Back Row - Fred, Ezra and Arthur.**



1-Leslie Stockebrand was born on the home place, and on May 18, 1920, Leslie was married to Miss Hazel Sturdivan. She was a daughter of M.D. and Ida Montgomery Sturdivan.

They lived on different farms along Turkey and Duck Creek, and some time in Coffey County. Their farming came to a close after purchasing the old home farm, where Leslie was born.

Then as old age began to creep up, they like many quit and moved to Yates Center.

Leslie and Hazel were parents of five children, Orville, Elvin, Leona, Vivian and Doris.

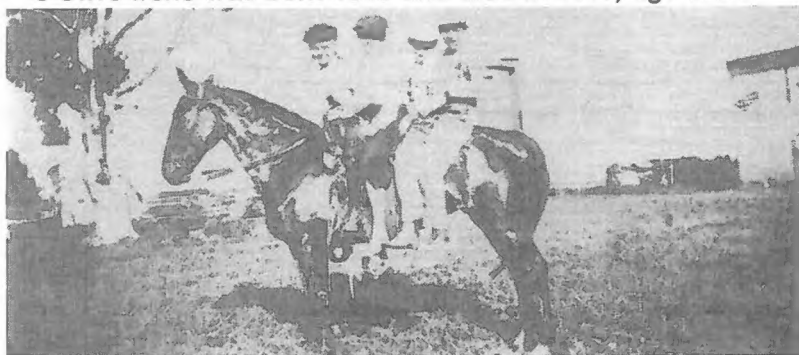
2-Fred Stockebrand was born on the home place. He graduated from the Yates Center High School. Teaching school was the profession that he chose. He taught in the Ft. Scott schools for several years. He was married to Miss Grace McCormick, whose parents were Ralph L. and Nettie Bell McCormick. Fred and Grace were parents of two daughters, Norma Jean and Patty Lou.

3-Myrtle was born May 15, 1899 and died June 5, 1908.

4-Arthur R. was born Dec. 1, 1900. He grew up on the home farm and attended the Yates Center High School, but serious illness caused him to quit. He was married July 29, 1923 to Miss Letha P. Manifold, whose parents, George and Nellie (Arnold) Manifold lived along Turkey Creek. Arthur and Letha had three children, Wanda and Arthur Wendall. A son Eldon died at age one in 1927.

5-Ezra E. was born in 1906. Attended the Yates Center High School and then took up teaching as his life work. He was married to Miss Arleene Stuart. They have a daughter Nyla Jean, and a son Arlo.

6-Olive Irene was born 1915 and died in 1919, age four.



Four boys riding 'Silver', perhaps the most thought of horse that the Stockebrand's ever owned. The four boys were, Ezra Stockebrand, Leslie Crumrine ?, Lester Harding, Cleo Harding.

## THE LEROY - EUREKA WAGON TRAIL —

This early day wagon road known as the LeRoy-Eureka Wagon Trail cut diagonally across the northwest part of Woodson County, staying on the northwest side of Turkey Creek for about the first seven miles after it crossed the county line less than a half mile east of where the US-75 crosses the Coffey County line.

Deep ruts cut by hundreds of wagons and passenger vehicles can be found at several as one traces the old road.

In an old record book of the first proceeding of the Supervisors (Commissioners) of Woodson County. We found that the Board met at Neosho Falls on April 5, 1864, with two members of the Board present; William Phillips, chairman of Neosho Falls, and Jonathan Foster of Belmont with George L. Wait as County Clerk. Pusey Graves of Turkey Creek presented a petition for a county road at or near where the road now crosses the north line of Woodson County. On the premises of James M. Baldwin and running diagonally up the north side of Turkey Creek to a crossing on Duck Creek on the premises of Thomas Siria, below the old crossing, thence from a point near the junction of the roads on the top of the hill on a straight line to the crossing of the old road on Jordon, thence on a straight line to the crossing on Turkey Creek on the premises of Benjamin Miller, thence along the creek bank to the timber, thence diagonally across the corner of a certain tract or parcel of land belonging to David Askren.

Crossing the south line of said tract, thirty-five (35) rods west of the southeast corner, whence on a south westerly direction to the west line of said Woodson County to intersect a proposed road running through Greenwood County leading to Eureka.

H.J. Gregory of Belmont, Issac Landis of South Owl Creek and Thomas Batie were appointed as viewers for said road and were to meet at the residence of James H. Baldwin the last Monday of April, 1864, at 1 o'clock p.m.

While it had never been surveyed before this trail from LeRoy to Eureka had been used by wagons singly and in wagon trains along with stage coach and other, for several years before this survey. This trail as we trace it came west out of LeRoy to what was known as the Ox-Box crossing on the Neosho River, and then crossing the Big Creek somewhere just to the north of where Turkey Creek used to empty into Big Creek, before it broke through and made a new channel into the river less than a hundred yards from the mouth of Big Creek. The trail then went southwest across what is now a part of the Crandell Ranch, just to the west of the old ranch house barn.

The trail as it was surveyed started at a rock along the county line almost a quarter mile east of the present US-75.

While the viewers did not do their job the road was not surveyed at that time. The reason for this survey was a complaint by Randolph Goings whose farm had the northeast corner cut by the old trail, coming very close to his house, and a J.W. Smith whose farm was cut through by the old trail.

On July 4, 1864, Thomas Siria, who was one of the County Commissioners, applied to have a new set of viewers appointed to lay out and survey the above road. The new set of viewers were Henry Yost of North Owl Creek, Issac Landis and J.F. Tucker of Turkey Creek, to meet at the home of J.F. Tucker on August 1, 1864.

Again on October 5, 1864, David Askren, of Turkey Creek asked the Board of County Commissioners to appoint Randolph Goings, Washington Siria of Duck Creek, and Henry Yost of North Owl as viewers of this same road. This set of viewers also failed to view the road at the time decided by said board. W.B. Stines of upper Turkey Creek was appointed in place of Henry Yost, and along with W. Siria and Goings gave to the County Commissioners at Neosho Falls the following report.

"We the undersigned viewers have caused the above line to be surveyed and established and we consider the road of public utility and we are in favor of establishing said road and to be four rods wide and the line above described to be the center of said highway and there has not been any damages claimed by the owners or occupants of said land over which the above line runs.

February 2, 1865.

Wm. B. Stines  
Washington Siria  
Randolf Goings  
Viewers."

John Woolman was the surveyor and gave his report in courses and distances, mostly southwest commencing at a stone on the county line on the north side of Woodson County and ending on the west county line at a stone.

#### RECORD OF PUBLIC HIGHWAY

Commencing at a stone in the county line on north side of Woodson County; S44½°, W48 Rds., S79°, W32 Rs., S40°, W78 Rs., S18°, W34 Rs., S20°, W42 Rs., S79°, W12 Rs., S34°, W22 Rs., S49°, W64 Rs., S42½°, W580 Rs., S25°, W60 Rs., S43½°, W886 Rs., S72½°, W14 Rs., S67½°, W68 Rs., S46½°, W50 Rs., S71½°, W44 Rs., S87½°, W147 Rs., S28°, W960 Rs., S32°, W280 Rs., S78°, W232 Rs., S83°, W180 Rs., S69°, W200 Rs., S55°, W100 Rs., S59°, W72 Rs., and to the ¼ Sec. corner on the north side of Sec. 2, 25, 13, thence S.160 Rs., then S40°, W160 Rs., S29°, W682 Rs., to the Greenwood County line at a stone.

John Woolman, Surveyor.

° Means Degree and Rs. is rods.

**The Woodson Democrat - Yates Center, Woodson County.**

Friday, April 24, 1891 - R.R. Wells, Editor and Proprietor.

**The Yates Center Bank** - Winter, Bancroft & Co., Proprietors. Does a general banking business. Makes collections on all points. Makes farm loans on first mortgage, from 6 to 8 per cent int. Money paid as soon as security approved and perfect abstract is procured. Makes abstracts of title to all lands in Woodson County, Kansas. Plenty short time money on approved Collateral Security.

**H.F. Ward's Bargain Resort** - East Side of Square.

A full line of 15 and 10 cent goods of every description.

**W.F. Dillon** at the Second Hand Store is agent for the **Belville Thresher**, The Very Best Machine Sold. No Waste of Grain. See this machine before buying. - North Side of Square. Yates Center, Kansas.

County Attorney Gregory has commenced an investigation of charges against Dr. Turner and H.S. Johnson for illegal liquor selling. Quite a number of witnesses have been examined.

The Milk-Maids who recently held a convention in this city will give a mush-and-milk social Saturday evening April 25, in the Holloway building, northeast corner of the square.

H.L. Littell, of Foster, Mo., has opened up a coal office in Marple and Wharton's Hardware Store. If the business turns out to suit him he will send for his family.

**Yates Center Market Report by Lauber and Stockebrand -**

Butter...15 cents — Eggs...8½ cents — Potatoes...75 cents to a dollar — Live Chickens...4½ cents — Dressed Chickens...Live Turkeys...6 cents — Ducks and Geese live...4½ cents a pound — Ducks and Geese dressed, per pound...4 cents — Corn per bushel...50 cents — Hogs...\$3.50 — Hay...\$4.00 — Cattle...\$2.00 to \$4.00 — Flax...\$1.00 — Castor beans, per bushel...\$1.30.

**Elite Tonsorial Parlor's** - C.C. McCann, Prop.

Southwest corner square, under the Woodson National Bank. Best place in the city for a clean shave or a neat haircut.

A cyclone destroyed some buildings on the farm of Charles Doeber, near Vernon, on the morning of the 16th, inst.

Ed Adair has leased 20,000 acres of hay land near Batesville, Woodson County and the Adairs will probably start a store there.

## CATTLE STEALING CASE IN

Woodson County District Court, 1868.

In October, 1868, a suit was filed in the District Court of Woodson County, at Neosho Falls, by G.W. McGee and G.H. Flynn against James G. Jarel, R.B. Southard, Alex Stewart, Alexander Hamilton and James McMahan.

The plaintiffs claim was that in June, 1868, they had put 214 head of cattle on pasture in Wilson County and that "on the 26th day of August A.D., 1868 at the county of Willson" the five men defendants wrongfully detained in their possession the following goods and cattle, 214 head of cattle-steers and heifers 1-2-3 years old. Dry Cows same amount, 2 bulls, 5 or 6 calves. The majority being branded with these various brands.

**B, D, K, T, X, O, L, C, JJ, SM.Я**

The cattle were valued at \$4,000 and plaintiffs were asking for \$2,000 damages.

Jasper Davis, Sheriff of Wilson County, served summons to the five defendants in Woodson County. His fee for service and return was \$1.25 - 29 miles transit, \$2.90.

The summons read that the defendants must deliver said cattle on or before October 30. The defendants denied each and every allegation.

The plaintiffs went to the pasture and recovered the cattle but in the count only 161 cattle were found, making 53 cattle still missing. The amount fixed for the missing cattle was \$1,093.05.

At the regular term of District Court held in November, 1868 at Neosho Falls the five men, John McMahan, James H. Jarel, Alexander Hamilton, Alex Stewart and R.B. Southard appeared with their attorney E. Gilbert.

A jury composed of men from over the county found the defendants guilty of six charges and stated that the defendants pay the sum of \$1,093.05 for the 53 head of cattle not recovered.

Pusey Graves of Turkey Creek was Clerk of the District Court.

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Dave Phillips had an early day milk route, driving in from Defiance twice a day. Two large cans with faucets occupied a raised shelf behind the dashboard. The cart had a canvas cover with sides. He arrived on schedule, rang a hand bell, and customers hurried out with a receptacle - they had to for Mr. Phillips waited but a fraction of time, never got out of his cart to do any delivering, never came back until another round. He always whistled a peculiar tune of his own.

## ELIZABETH HALL - KENNEDY - HARPER —

While other people will be told about - a Pioneer Mother, who knew the many hardships, joys and the trials that went with the life of the pioneer families.

Elizabeth was born Sumnerton, England, in January, 1835, and was baptized into the Episcopal Church. At the age of three she came with her parents and two brothers to America. The family settled down near Cleveland, Ohio. Within the following year, both the father and mother died, leaving the three small children, to be raised by strangers.

At 20 years of age she came to Lawrence, Kansas, and was there during the burning and 'sacking' of that town, by Quantrell and his raiders. She witnessed much of that horror but seemingly came through it safely.

Elizabeth Hall was married to Joseph A. Kennedy in February, 1860. Her husband served as a private of Co. D, Mo. Volunteer Calvary. On June 10, 1862, Joseph Kennedy was shot and killed by 'bush whackers' while he was guarding the U.S. mail.

Two months after the death of her husband, Elizabeth Kennedy gave birth of twins that were given the names of Josephine A. and Joseph A. Kennedy. About the year 1863, Elizabeth and twins came to Woodson County from Lawrence. She settled on a claim on the west branch of Cherry Creek, in the southwest quarter of Sec. 8, Twp. 24, R. 26, a mile and half west and about a half mile south of where the town of Vernon was built.

The following year Elizabeth Kennedy was married to Amasa C. Howard, who also had land in the same quarter section. Again Elizabeth became the mother of twins, this time both girls, who were given the names of Anna A. and Annis A. And again tragedy struck the family as Amasa Howard died leaving wife and the year old twins.

In the meantime Josephine Kennedy was married to Allen Howard. When the railroad was built through Vernon and southwest to Yates Center the railroad tracks went across the corner of their 40 acre farm, in 1885. On November 23, 1882, a baby girl was born to Josephine and Allen Howard. She was given the name of Ethel Lutitia Howard. She became known mostly as Tish or Tishia. We will tell about the families of Josephine, Anna and Annis.

The later twins both married locally. Anna married George Brown.

Annis A. married William Francis Harper.

Elizabeth Kennedy-Harper out lived all of her children except Anna who cared for her mother the last five years of her life. Elizabeth Harper passed away in July, 1927, at the age of 92 years.





**Elizabeth Hall - Kennedy - Harper**

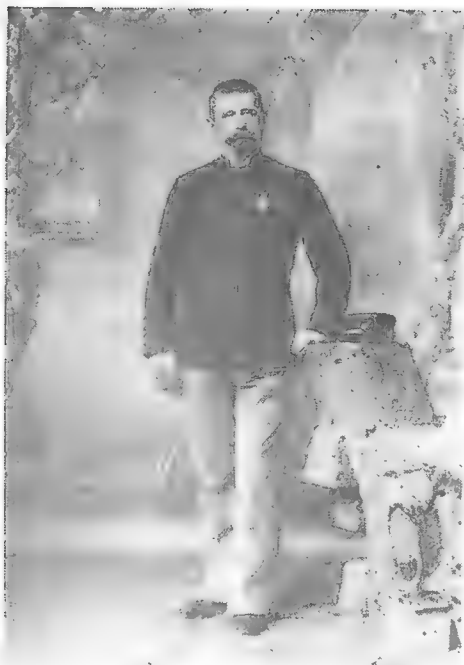
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On the preceding page we told some about the family of Josephine Kennedy Howard, and daughter Ethel Lutitia, or Tish as she was known. Lutitia grew up in the Vernon community. In 1906 Lutitia was married to Wesley O. (Dick) Shaw. They were parents of three children, Max, Glenn and Donna.

The parents of W.O. Shaw were, S.R. and Eleanor Shaw who moved onto a farm along Cherry Creek in the Vernon vicinity in 1884. The W.O. Shaw family moved into Yates Center when Mr. Shaw was elected to the office of County Clerk of Woodson County in 19--.

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Amasa Howard was one of the first settlers along that part of Cherry Creek. When his first wife died she was buried not far from their house near Cherry Creek. He was married to Elizabeth Kennedy. At the death of Amasa Howard he was buried beside his first wife. After many years, and with all of the houses gone from that area, it is possible these graves will never be located again.



Joseph A. Kennedy was born at Lawrence, Kansas, but grew up in the Cherry Creek area in Everett township. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was given a medal for his valor from Admiral Dewey, during the battle of Manila Bay. Coming home from the war he in turn made a trip to China. He had this picture taken in Shanghai. He was wearing the medal he won as can be seen. Returning back to the States, he made a trip to Kansas City. While there he was attacked by a mob, severely beaten, and "mugged" of all his money, jewelry, watch and all identifying papers. When the police found him they found nothing to identify, except the Medal of Valor which the muggers did not take. Through the War Department, with the medal he was identified. Joseph Kennedy was married to Love Lawson. They had a daughter Nellie. For awhile Joseph lived with his mother in a house just to the east side of Vernon.

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We told about one daughter of Josephine and Al Howard, they had another daughter, Hattie Howard who was a rural school teacher for several years. Also teaching in the Yates Center Schools.

**Annis Howard married Wm. Francis Harper. They were the parents of three children, Rosa Mabel, Elizabeth and Vernon.**

**Mabel was married to Clay Knapp. Their children were Clark and Clarice.**

**Elizabeth was married to Wm. C. Clawson. They had no children. Elizabeth taught many terms and years in the schools of Woodson County.**

**After the town of Vernon was established, the Wm. F. Harper family moved in the town. When their son was born he was named Vernon as he was the first baby boy born in the town.**



**Some of the Harper family in front of their house that stood to the west of Vernon. Standing to the left is unknown. The lady sitting in chair is Mrs. Annis Howard Harper, her husband Wm. F. Harper is next. The next lady is his mother "Grandma" Harper. The small boy is Ben Harper, a relative.**

## ODDS AND ENDS

January 28, 1899 - Farmers Advocate —

An exciting race was witnessed down by the Mo. Pacific depot last Monday. Warren Millson and George Shumaker had a footrace with a jack rabbit in the deep snow west of the depot. After a chase of an hour, more or less the boys caught the rabbit.

\* \* \* \* \*

Woodson County is not generally known as a cotton growing section, yet cotton can be produced here with marked success. E. Grubbs of Neosho Falls township experimented with cotton the past year and the result was satisfactory. The yield was at the rate of 1700 pounds of seed cotton per acre, which is more than average.

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February 11, 1899 —

Sometime Sunday afternoon a special train will arrive over the Mo. Pacific conveying from Iowa the families of the men who have located in the county, and their household goods, farm implements and stock. A coach will be attached for the accommodation of the passengers. The party will number between 40 and 50 persons and will be quite a valuable addition to Woodson County population.

\* \* \* \* \*

Married at the residence of the bride's parents of this city, March 9, 1899, Miss Nina Bartlett and Alva B. Ellis. Rev. G.W. Melton, officiating.

\* \* \* \* \*

January 21, 1899. Welcome a new voter at Louis Reep's.

\* \* \* \* \*

### SOME FIRSTS OF WOODSON COUNTY —

The first wedding under what was called the "New" marriage act of the county was that of Dr. S.J. Williams and Miss Eva Fender. This occurred on Oct. 24, 1859. Both were from Neosho Falls, Kansas Territory. They were married by J.A. Little, Justice of the Peace.

However, there were several couples married before that date.

The first marriage in Liberty township was that of Stolsing and Pappenhausen. The Pappenhausen evidently was a daughter of John Pappenhausen of Upper Turkey Creek. They were married in 1858.

Also of Neosho Falls on Dec. 3, 1858, Warren W. Short and Lucretia Wilkinson were married by D.W. Miller, Justice of the Peace.

Abijah Hampden and Lucy Cooper, both of Verdigris Township, Kansas Territory, were married by J.B. Sweet, J.P. April 8, 1859.

## JEFFERSON HUFF FAMILY —

Jefferson Huff was born in Perry County, Ind., in 1838. He was just one year old when his parents William and Jennie (Taylor) moved to Arkansas. The father died in a short time. Mrs. Huff and small son, Jeff moved back to Indiana. Here on the 3rd day of May, 1860. Jefferson Huff was married to Mary E. Howard.

They were the parents of nine children; George M., Elizabeth, Andrew Julius, Charles Wm., Bettie Loretta, Margaret R., Mary L., Ellen Ann and Katie Lee.

On November 9, 1881, the Jefferson Huff family arrived in Woodson County. They first lived in Perry township near the Seven Mile house on the parallel line seven miles west of Humboldt. Along in late February, 1885, a man on foot called at the house and asked Huff to drive him to Fredonia. Huff demurred but finally agreed to take him as far as he could travel and get back home the same night. The consideration was \$2.00. After they had driven some distance the stranger asked Huff if he had ever heard of the "Clark tradgedy". Being a new man in Kansas he had not. The man then told his name was Petty and told of a trial. He had just come from the penitentiary and had left the train at Humboldt and started walking to Fredonia.

Shortly after this Mr. Huff purchased a farm along what is now US-54, north and a mile east of Toronto.

Mr. Huff enlarged his farm to over 500 acres. He and his wife lived out their lives on this farm.

Andrew J. Huff was born in Dubois Co., Indiana, Dec. 8, 1866, and coming to Woodson Co. Kansas in 1881, with his parents. Mr. Huff obtained a good education for his years. In 1896, he was elected to the office of District Clerk of Court for Woodson Co. He served two terms as clerk.

Following his political office he taught school for 14 years, in the rural schools of the county and in Toronto.

Mr. Huff founded the Toronto Telephone Co. in 1903.

A.J. Huff again entered politics, being elected to the office of County Treasurer of Woodson Co. for two terms, in 1940 through 1929.

On February 2, 1910, Andrew J. Huff was married to Nellie E. Ayling, at Toronto. She was a native of Illinois. They had a son William J., who was born October 20, 1910.

Andrew J. Huff became owner and operator of the Toronto Republican, which they operated for years. After the death of Andrew J., the son Wm. (Bill) ran the newspaper. The paper was discontinued about 1952, and is now a part of the Yates

**Center News.**

**Wm. (Bill) married Margaret Scott and they moved to Ft. Scott.**



**In the rear seat of the old Model T Ford, is Jefferson Huff and his wife Mary. Sitting at the right-hand drive steering wheel was Andrew J. seated with his wife Nellie, with their son Bill standing between them.**

The picture was taken about 1914, and was given to by Helen (Ireland) Blackwell.

We will try and tell more of this Huff family in the next issue.



## ATHENS - A RAILROAD SIDING —

Seven miles east and two north from the US-75 and US-54 crossing in Yates Center is a siding on the Missouri-Pacific railroad. US-54 now follows the railroad track by here.

Just where the name of Athens came from we never learned. This siding was used mostly for shipping hay out of the county. Athens was never a town, therefore no post office was established there. There was a narrow strip of land on the north-west corner of Sec. 1, Twp. 25, R. 16. The rest of the N.W. quarter belonged to Joseph Cramer, and now to Joe Cramer.

Somewhere in the 1900's, a John Caler started and operated a small country store. On this strip of land on the north side of the railroad tracks. Across the road from the store was the Lily School House, Dist. No. 52. That stood in the southeast corner of the S.E. quarter of Sec. 36. The school house was evidently built on this site about the time the railroad was built.

When John Caler died in 19--, his nephew, Albert Caler and wife Alice operated the store for a while before it was closed. The building was moved to Iola, where it is used by the Lang Motor and Salvage Co.

The Lily School was built on land of the Geo. Moerer farm. The first frame building was built here was burned down in 1915. A new one was built and school was held there until the school was closed in 1961. The school house was sold and moved away.

Charles Bishop and wife Marie lived on the place where the store was for awhile. John Caler was an uncle of Mrs. Bishop, and Albert Caler was her brother.

John Reed moved a trailer house onto this acreage in 1970's where he has operated a garage for several years.

Charley and Marie Bishop were the parents of Russell Sr. and Dave Bishop.

Some time in the 1920's, two different hay barns were built along the siding to the north side of the tracks. One belonged to Henry H. Peters, and the other to Frank Massoth. At different times both of these barns burned down, and were rebuilt, and both were burned down again. The last barn belonging to Maynard Stockebrand, a son-in-law of Henry Peters, was burned to the ground one Halloween. A church group from Yates Center were going to hold a party in the barn. Some pranksters threw fire crackers in the barn to scare some who were in there and some loose hay caught fire, burning it to the ground. A set of scales and a small stockyards or cattle pens were there for loading cattle to ship out. Henry Peters had a small 'Office' at the store.

## ODDS AND ENDS

Farmer's Advocate - May 6, 1898 —

**DECLARATION OF WAR! - WAR IS ON!** This nation gives ultimatum to Spain!!

\* \* \* \* \*

Chub Harper and James Bryant of Vernon enlisted at LeRoy, Monday, as Kansas Volunteers. The friends of both boys gave a reception at A. Hamilton's in honor of their departure.

The following young men of this county volunteered and were duly mustered into service of Uncle Sam at LeRoy, Monday. Phil S. Ray, 2nd Lieut. of the company; Clifford Jones, Jas. H. Bryant, Elmer McIntyre, Aaron Hibbs, F.E. Dorman, H.J. Roninson, E.C. Pounds, Wesley Fezler, Chas. Jackson, Abraham C. Woodruff, Vanlandingham Harper.

Yates Center went wild Monday night over the news that Dewey had defeated the Spanish fleet in the Manila Bay. Effigies representing Weyler and Blanco were hanged to a wire stretched across the street from the post office corner and after posing for a time as targets for numerous marksmen were burned. Heavy anvil firing was kept for several hours and later a huge bonfire attracted a large crowd. It was after midnight before the town quieted down to its normal condition.

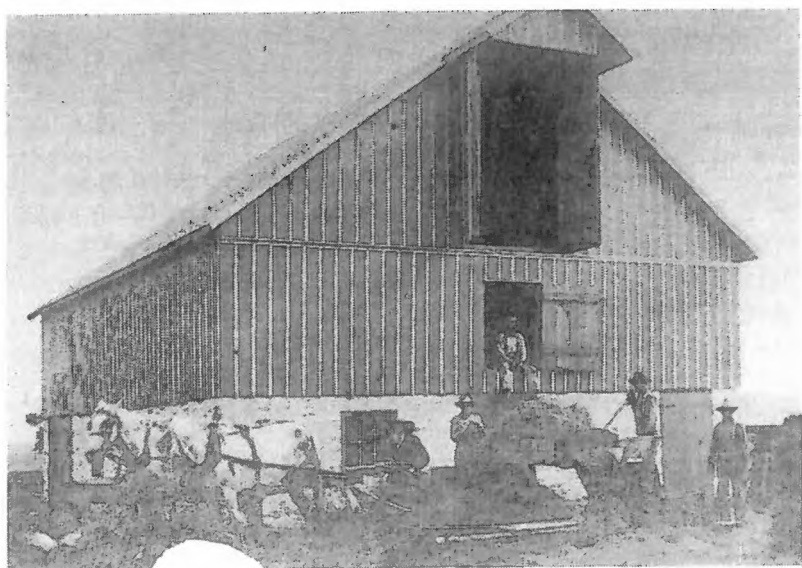
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Boundry of Liberty township as first surveyed in 1859. Beginning at the N.W. corner Section 19-23-16, south to the S.E. corner of Sect. 36-24-15, then west to the S.E. corner Sect. 34-24-13, then North along county line to the S.E. corner Sect. 15-23-13. Then east to the place of beginning, 9 by 14 miles square.

3½ mills on the dollar for county purposes tax levied. June 21, 1859 there were 19 votes cast in Liberty township.

Tye Alvis sold KKK Products, starting in 1911. It took him three months to cover the county with horse and buggy. The Alvis family came to the farm on Big Sandy in 1896.

October, 1907 - Mrs. Tally an aunt of Sam Moss, fell into a hole where bridge was being built over Turkey Creek 10 miles north of Yates Center, and fractured her skull. She was dead when found. She was quite old, and it is not known how it happened.



Baling prairie hay or alfalfa from the barn loft where they had been stored at haying time. This was a common practice so the hay could be baled during the winter or at some slack time in the farm work.

The picture was taken at the Elliot Cole farm in the S.E. quarter of Sec. 31, Twp. 25, R. 17, along the north side of the Parallel Line.

The hay is being baled with the old horse-power baler. The man driving the team round and round the bale power is Elliot Cole. The man standing back of him is a son Edwin Cole. Sitting in the window and throwing the loose hay out was another son David Cole. The next man holding a fork and feeding the baler was Charles Baum. The next man is unknown.

Elliot Cole was an early day settler in the southeast part of the county. He was appointed Postmaster of the Cookville post office to his home here on the Parallel, on October 2, 1883, Mr. Cole moved the post office to his home from a mile to the south where the Cookville office was first established by John W. Cook in 1879. Mr. Cole kept the post office until the Rural Creek Delivery was established in 1904 and the papers taken to the Rose post office.

## **PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY**

Milton & Virginia Schornick  
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand  
John V. Glades Agency  
Street Abstract Co., Inc.  
State Exchange Bank  
Self Service Grocery  
Krueger Variety & Dry Goods  
Piqua Farmer's Co-op  
Morton Equipment Co.  
Swope & Son Implement Co.  
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.  
The Herring Families  
Cantrell Hay Co.,  
    Craig Cantrell  
Artex Manufacturing Co.  
J. C. Schnell  
Wilma Mark  
Yates Center News  
Gambles Hardware &  
    Home Furnishings  
Pringle Ranch -  
    J. Richard Pringle  
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy  
Campbell Funeral Home  
Glen & Zola Baker  
Piqua State Bank  
Ken Kimbell  
Steiner's Sundries

Lynn and Gail Cantrell  
Gaulding Oil Co.  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ward  
Clyde Hill  
Kimbell Ranch-Ed. Kimbell  
Hi-Way Food Basket  
Atkin Clinic  
Blackjack Cattle Co. Inc.  
Yates Center Elevator  
Jaspers Shopping Spot  
Daly Western Supply  
Linde Barber Shop  
Campbell Plmg. & Electric  
Ted Spencer-Gen. Agent  
    Woodson Co. Farm Bureau  
Jaynes Insurance Agency  
Glenn Shaw  
Elmer E. Light  
Milton & Marcella Wrampe  
Loren & Rita Cantrell  
Al's Jewelry  
Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, MO  
Rex Butler, Nashville, TN  
Thomas Wilson  
Bill Herman  
Abbott & Ethel Crandall  
C. L. "Matty" & Luriel Mathews

